

SECRET *Reported by Sen. Clifton*

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence

20 August 1961 *submitted*
Clay

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: REQUESTS FROM THE SOMALI REPUBLIC FOR MILITARY AID

1. Officials of the Somali Republic first raised the question of the West and the United States providing military assistance after Mogadiscio announced in early 1960 its intention to create a 5,000-man army. At that time the Somali officials implied that their "friends" would be expected to provide the necessary arms and that formal requests would be forthcoming to the United States, Italy, and Britain. A formal request, however, apparently was submitted only to Rome; it was a generalized bid for Western arms, equipment, and training for a force of about 5,000 men. Somali Army officials have since upped their goal to an 8,000-man force.

2. The Italian Embassy in Washington stated on 27 February 1961 that Rome had trimmed an initial Somali request for military assistance from about \$27,000,000 to \$19,000,000. This program, which included tanks, artillery, and other heavy combat equipment, was considered excessive by the United States and Britain. In May, the British Ambassador in Mogadiscio compiled a substantially smaller list of arms equipment--estimated to cost less than \$3,000,000--which he feels would satisfy the needs of the Somali Army at least for the next

State Department review completed

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25X1 two years.

25X1 No time limits have been set, so far as is known, by the Somalis.

3. The United States has responded to a request for police assistance by providing personnel for training and the following materiel: 150 Thompson submachine guns, 75 bren guns, 3,000 revolvers, and 75 riot guns--all complete with ammunition. A formal request for patrol boats and reconnaissance-type aircraft for the police, which was received in July 1961, is under consideration.

4. Italy, Britain, and the US have conducted tripartite discussions periodically since the Somali Republic achieved independence on 1 July 1960 in an effort to come to an agreement on a division of responsibility for providing military assistance. The discussions have proved inconclusive to date, however, because of an anticipated hostile reaction from Ethiopia to military aid to Somalia and because of differences of opinion regarding the degree of participation by each of the three powers.

5. Italy maintains that Britain and the United States should share with Italy the cost of arming and equipping the Somali Army. London, however, has offered to provide only \$420,000 in arms aid on a one-time basis, contingent on the assigning of an Italian training mission to Mogadiscio. The United States has hoped to continue to concentrate its aid in the economic sphere and has maintained that Italy and the

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UK, as the former administering powers of the territories which today constitute the Somali Republic, should provide the necessary military assistance.

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